



February 2019

Dear Parents

Re: Use of Social Media and Digital Communication

As you know, we work very hard as a school to safeguard the children in our care and to teach them as much as we can about keeping safe in the technological world that they are growing up in. We feel that it is our duty to protect and educate them *when* they are using social media and devices such as ipods, tablets PS4 etc **whether they are in school or out of school**. We work hard with you as parents to support you in your role to safeguard the welfare of all our young people, your children.

It has come to our attention that some children have been using their devices inappropriately **out** of school. Messages have been sent that are inappropriate and abusive in nature and whilst it is not a school issue these incidents can spill over into the classroom.

Please take the time to talk to your child this half term about their activity online and when they are playing games.

The children know that if something happens in school as a result of behaviour online out of school, then it will be taken very seriously.

- Please ensure that you know the password for your children's devices
- Please ensure that you check them regularly when they are playing and consider the use of headsets - maybe be better for them not to have headphones
- Talk to them about which games they use and explore whether they are appropriate for them to be on
- Make sure they understand that once they have sent/said something, they cannot delete it or get it back!
- Once they are over the age of 10 they become criminally responsible for their acts and this applies to what they say/send out using social media and online games
- Please talk to them and ask them about whether they would do or say the same thing in real life to someone's face as they would online
- Finally, if your child should ever receive anything that upsets them or is inappropriately please teach them to share it with you or an adult straight away.

I regularly liaise with Graham Slater from Thames Valley Police as well as our PCSO Les Bradfield and they will often come in to school to support us in educating the children.

Finally you may find it useful to explore the web site below: <http://www.internetmatters.org>

If there is anything that we can help you with please do not hesitate to come and see myself, Miss Whitrod (Computing Leader) or their class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Fox
Headteacher